India has supplied the list of declared designated depots to the Government of Gujarat in February, 1996. Since the claims of Gujarat State Civil Supplies Corporation (GSCSC) did not fulfil the conditions of reimbursement, the same were rejected by the Food Corpration of India. However, the GSCSC had been requested on 11.2.1997 to revise their claims. At present, no claim of GSCSC is pending with the Food Corporation of India.

Government's intention to Maintain Optimum stock of Foodgrains

4515. SHRI YERA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are interested in maintaining stock of foodgrains at optimum level;

(b) if so, the mechanism used to determine optimum level of rice and wheat stock in the country;

(c) whether State Governments are consulted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The building up and maintenance of buffer stocks has been an important plank of the National Food Policy. These stocks are maintained primarily to ensure stability in supplies and prices over the entire year and to provide food security to the country. The Buffer Stocking Policy is reviewed from time to time. The last review was made in 1989 by a Technical Group constituted for the purpose.

The Government in December, 1990, after considering the recommendations made by the Technical Group, fixed the level of minimum stocks to be maintained by the public agencies on different dates of a year as under:—

Prescribed Minimum stock Levels

(In Million Tonnes)

Date	Wheat	Rice	Total
1st April	3.7	10.8	14.5
1st July	13.1	9.2	22.3
1st October	10.6	6.0	16.6
1st January	7.7	7.7	15.4

(c) and (d) The decision about the level of minimum stocks to be maintained by public agencies was based on the recommendation of the Technical Group and was duly circulated amongst all the State Governments/Union Territory administrations. The National Food Policy, of which buffer stocking of foodgrains is an important element, continues to be implemented with utmost coordination between the Centre and States and their agencies.